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period than any other known spectroscopic binary except  $\beta$  Cephei. The period of  $\beta$  Cephei was found by FROST to be  $4^h 34^m.2$ .

The velocity of  $\beta$  Canis Majoris, reduced to the Sun, varies between  $+23^{\text{km}}$  and  $+42^{\text{km}}$  per second. The interval between greatest positive and greatest negative velocity is two and a half hours. It is fortunate that the star is bright (2.6 phot. mag.). In fair seeing, and with a slit-width of 0.0013 inch, an exposure of eighteen minutes produces a well-exposed spectrogram. If an exposure of two hours had been required, the binary character of this star might easily have escaped detection.

It is not impossible that some of the fainter stars having broad and fuzzy lines are spectroscopic binaries of short period. On such stars it will be necessary to reduce the exposure time as much as possible, by using a wide slit and probably also a low dispersion.

SEBASTIAN ALBRECHT.

February, 1909.

#### THE VISIBILITY OF MT. WHITNEY FROM MT. HAMILTON.

In a note in No. 124 of these *Publications*, I stated my reasons for thinking that Mt. Whitney was visible from Mt. Hamilton. Professor WRIGHT has made some further investigations and computations on this matter and concludes that it is not Mt. Whitney but the Kaweah Peaks which I have observed.

The identification of Mt. Whitney in my note depends to a great extent on the computed bearing, which appears to be in error by a sufficient amount to make it coincide with the observed bearing of the Kaweah Peaks, and that Mt. Whitney is in reality just obscured by Milestone Peaks and the ridge which extends from them to the southwest.

April 2, 1909.

C. D. PERRINE.

#### LECTURES AT BERKELEY.

The following course of lectures was given during the present semester before the class in Modern Astronomy at the University of California:—